

2000 PLINE (Primary Language Is Not English) Students in Massachusetts Public Schools

The following is the most recent data from the Department of Education. Covering school districts statewide, these statistics are based on elementary, middle and high school PLINE (Primary Language Is Not English) students. As in previous years, the 2000 statistics continue to provide an interesting look at Massachusetts newcomer communities, highlighting dominant foreign languages in different communities based on concentration of PLINE students.

The 2000 statistics show an increase in the total number of PLINE students and, in most cases, slight increases in the dominant languages. Seven cities and towns have been added due to an increase in PLINE students: Chicopee, Lexington, Marlborough, Medford, Milford, Peabody and West Springfield.

The table below summarizes the student statistics for 1999 and 2000. The table on page two lists the 24 frequently spoken languages, the number of students speaking the language and the PLINE percentage they represent in Massachusetts schools. The following pages list public schools throughout the Commonwealth where PLINE student enrollment was ten percent or above in 2000 and include frequently spoken languages, total PLINE enrollment, total student enrollment and percent PLINE.

1999		2000	
Total PLINE Students Statewide	128,555	Total PLINE Students Statewide	129,365
Total Students Statewide	972,260	Total Students Statewide	979,624
Percentage PLINE Students	13.22%	Percentage PLINE Students	13.20%

Highlights of the 2000 statistics.

- 36 cities and towns in Massachusetts had 10 percent of PLINE students out of the total student enrollment.
- Marlborough and Medford increased to 15% of PLINE students while Taunton and Westfield dropped to 9%.
- More than one hundred and twenty different languages and dialects are spoken throughout Massachusetts.
- 50.8% of all PLINE students speak Spanish and account for 6.75% of the total student enrollment.
- Thirteen percent of all students in Massachusetts (about one out of eight) speak a language other than English. One out of eight PLINE students speaks a Southeast Asian language.
- PLINE students account for more than half of the students in Lawrence (79%), Chelsea (74%), Holyoke (51%) and for a third or more of the students in Lowell (47%), Somerville (43%), Lynn (38%), Boston (36%), Fitchburg (33%) and Malden (31%).

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1999 and 2000 PLINE (Primary Language Is Not English) Students

1999 TOTAL STUDENTS STATEWIDE: 972,260

1999 TOTAL PLINE STUDENTS: 128,555

1999 PERCENTAGE PLINE STUDENTS: 13.22%

2000 TOTAL STUDENTS STATEWIDE: 979,624

2000 TOTAL PLINE STUDENTS: 129,365

2000 PERCENTAGE PLINE STUDENTS: 13.20%

	1999	1999	2000	2000
LANGUAGE	TOTAL STUDENTS	PERCENTAGE	TOTAL STUDENTS	PERCENTAGE
SPANISH	65,666	51.5%	65,845	50.8%
PORTUGUESE	12,424	9.7%	12,768	9.8%
KHMER	7,601	5.9%	7,294	5.6%
CHINESE*	7,212	5.6%	7,861	6.0%
VIETNAMESE	6,067	4.7%	5,864	4.5%
HAITIAN CREOLE	4,665	3.6%	4,363	3.3%
CAPE VERDEAN	4,401	3.4%	4,359	3.3%
RUSSIAN	3,144	2.4%	3,253	2.5%
FRENCH	1,963	1.5%	2,135	1.6%
ARABIC	1,394	1.1%	1,484	1.1%
GREEK	1,047	.8%	915	.7%
KOREAN	1,019	.8%	1,022	.8%
LAO	821	.63	735	.56
ALBANIAN	573	.44	678	.52
HMONG	543	.41	652	.50
GUJARATI	552	.42	597	.46
ITALIAN	649	.50	584	.45
POLISH	617	.47	577	.44
JAPANESE	580	.44	558	.43
HEBREW	450	.34	493	.38
HINDI	464	.35	465	.35
SERBO CROATIAN	398	.30	445	.34
URDU	325	.25	347	.26
ARMENIAN	374	.28	332	.25

*Includes Mandarin, Cantonese, Taiwanese and Fukienese

Prepared by: the Office of Refugee and Immigrant, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Data Source: Office of Technology/Data Collection, Massachusetts Department of Education.

2000 PLINE (Primary Language Is Not English) Student Enrollment

Selected Massachusetts Cities and Towns*

	Attleboro	Boston	Brockton	Brookline	Cambridge	Chelsea	Chicopee	Everett	Fall River	Fitchburg	Frammingham
Spanish	291	12,223	893	153	670	3,462	609	547	605	1,307	1,075
Portuguese	103	553	247	40	266	113	11	404	2,192	22	767
Khmer	236	136	35	3	-----	94	1	404	2,192	17	3
**Chinese	13	2,290	105	35	144	23	10	22	30	6	90
Vietnamese	15	1,959	40	9	9	190	6	192	16	47	14
Haitian Creole	1	1,157	676	28	451	47	-----	194	9	5	14
Cape Verdean	5	1,837	1,938	1	20	10	-----	1	4	-----	-----
Russian	3	44	2	396	23	1	130	-----	2	2	50
French	3	1,317	67	30	29	2	-----	7	1	-----	20
Arabic	10	84	7	13	36	24	3	32	15	5	28
Korean	11	5	15	116	75	1	1	2	1	3	21
Greek	2	85	15	14	6	-----	2	3	3	12	15
Other Languages	Indian: 20 Hindi: 17	Somali: 218	Hmong: 71	Hebrew: 167 Japanese: 165	Bengali: 66 Amharic: 55	Serbo-Croatian: 158	Polish: 50	Italian: 46	Bengali: 13	Hmong: 473 Lao: 80	Urdu: 25 Hebrew: 24
Total PLINE	810	22,841	4,220	1,750	2,185	4,241	845	1,532	3,399	2,006	2,295
Total Enrollment	6,922	62,950	16,869	5,989	7,294	5,658	7,916	5,377	12,180	5,987	8,242
Percent PLINE	11.70	36.2	25.0	29.2	29.9	74.9	10.6	28.4	27.9	33.5	27.8

*Includes cities and towns where student PLINE enrollment is 9 percent or more.

Table lists only frequently spoken languages

** Includes Mandarin, Cantonese, Taiwanese and Fukiense.

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2000 PLINE (Primary Language Is Not English) Student Enrollment

Selected Massachusetts Cities and Towns*

	Haverhill	Holyoke	Hudson	Lawrence	Leominster	Lexington	Lowell	Lynn	Malden	Marlborough
Spanish	808	3,832	40	9,516	655	19	2,676	3,197	243	313
Portuguese	11	2	250	50	71	11	548	100	159	310
Khmer	12	5	----	220	6	9	3,510	1,535	8	1
**Chinese	12	3	4	19	12	196	25	36	582	18
Vietnamese	11	5	2	143	24	2	265	227	256	15
Haitian Creole	1	----	----	41	4	1	10	----	260	1
Cape Verdean	1	----	----	----	1	2	3	2	4	----
Russian	1	1	1	----	3	11	10	77	25	15
French	11	1	----	4	13	26	16	169	13	----
Arabic	23	1	1	20	4	13	12	46	79	1
Korean	3	1	2	2	15	87	8	1	6	1
Greek	21	----	----	----	1	11	17	77	7	2
Other Languages	Albanian: 12	Polish: 7	Hindi: 3	Polish: 5	Hmong: 76 Lao: 18	Hebrew: 37 Japanese: 30	Lao: 329 Gujarati: 137	Serbo-Croatian: 95	Amharic: 13	Gujarati: 11
Total PLINE	950	3,865	309	10,032	944	574	7,741	5,796	1,813	731
Total Enrollment	8,592	7,562	2,752	12,562	6,218	5,809	16,275	15,069	5,685	4,579
Percent PLINE	11.0	51.1	11.22	79.8	15.1	9.8	47.5	38.4	31.8	15.9

*Includes cities and towns where PLINE student enrollment is 10 percent or more.

Table lists only frequently spoken languages

**Includes Mandarin, Cantonese, Taiwanese and Fokienese.

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2000 PLINE (Primary Language Is Not English) Student Enrollment

Selected Massachusetts Cities and Towns*

	Medford	Methuen	Millford	New Bedford	Newton	Norwood	Peabody	Quincy	Randolph
Spanish	126	718	140	1151	192	48	199	104	105
Portuguese	186	8	222	931	36	46	256	57	22
Khmer	1	4	----	----	2	1	1	5	1
**Chinese	65	9	10	12	558	16	5	1043	119
Vietnamese	39	34	3	----	24	5	19	201	58
Haitian Creole	115	3	----	5	9	10	----	14	213
Cape Verdean	1	----	1	249	----	----	----	9	24
Russian	7	4	4	----	426	28	12	10	5
French	11	7	3	7	33	6	1	4	10
Arabic	42	57	8	----	10	83	15	77	11
Korean	5	37	2	----	62	18	10	6	3
Greek	34	1	2	4	38	20	48	16	3
Other languages	Niger- Congo: 29	Gujarati: 22	----	Italian: 8	Hebrew: 138 Japanese: 52	Gujarati: 21 Hindi: 38	Albanian: 48	Albanian: 40	Ibo: 13 Vigus: 11
Total PLINE	746	947	410	2,430	1,896	455	651	1,726	681
Total Enrollment	4,753	6,903	4,250	14,490	11,248	3,539	6,695	9,099	4,158
Percent PLINE	15.6	13.7	9.6	16.7	16.8	12.8	9.7	18.9	16.3

*Includes cities and towns where PLINE student enrollment is 10 percent or more.

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Selected Massachusetts Cities and Towns*

	Salem	Somerville	Southbridge	Springfield	Taunton	Waltham	Watertown	Westfield	West Springfield	Worcester
Spanish	1023	896	566	6054	283	657	79	173	70	4,236
Portuguese	41	941	1	8	406	26	44	1	----	274
Khmer		3		12	----	1		----	1	38
Chinese	14	86	2	54	13	49	28	5	11	72
Vietnamese	39	51	1	233	8	33	21	----	10	1135
Haitian Creole	16	412	----	7	6	206	8	----	----	49
Cape Verdean	1	30	----	----	63	1	----	----	----	1
Russian	23	6	3	115	2	14	35	217	308	37
French	3	8	----		----	13	13		----	26
Arabic	2	22	----	23	8	16	58	2	7	65
Korean	1	14	----	2	2	26	7	4	----	7
Greek	15	31	2	1	5	7	44		----	57
Other languages	Albanian: 21	Punjabi: 76	Lao: 36	Sudanic tribal: 129	----	Italian: 38	Armenian: 172	Ukrainian: 149	Albanian: 11	Albanian: 290 Polish: 93
Total PLINE	1,254	2,756	616	6,700	807	1,291	605	605	444	6,731
Total enrollment	5,056	6,355	2,499	25,838	8,173	5,187	2,654	6,670	4,064	25,518
Percent PLINE	24.8	43.3	24.6	25.9	9.8	24.8	22.7	9.0	10.9	26.3

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